

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)
Livestock and Poultry (LP) Program
Standards and Specifications Division (SSD)
Room 2702-S, STOP [0249](#)
Phone: (202) 690-3148

**Supplement 213 to the AMS
Master [Invitation](#) Purchase of
Beef, Special Trim
(Fresh/Frozen) for
Distribution to Federal Food
and Nutrition Assistance
Programs**

Supersedes: Supplement 213 [July 2022](#) – Changes from
previous requirements in [blue](#)

Effective: [May 2025](#)

100 Overview

110 This document provides additional program requirements for the purchase of Beef, Special Trim (Fresh/Frozen) by the Department of Agriculture (USDA), including the applicable Federal Purchase Program Specification (FPPS) (**[Exhibit A](#)**).

200 Instructions to Potential [Contractors](#)

210 The beef special trim shall be purchased on a competitive bid basis from qualified [contractors](#) who have met the requirements described in this Section. Interested contractors may submit a technical proposal at any time during the purchase program. [Contractors](#) should allow 10 working days, from USDA's receipt of the technical proposal for notification of evaluation results. A [contractor](#) is deemed eligible upon notification of approval of the technical proposal by the Standards and Specifications Division (SSD).

220 Submission of a technical proposal is not binding on USDA. Actual purchases shall be described in the [Agricultural Marketing Service \(AMS\) Master Invitations for Bids – Domestic Commodity Procurement \(MIFB-D\)](#) and Solicitations.

230 Documentation Requirements

231 Technical Proposal Requirement

231.1 Include a detailed description of the production steps that are taken to meet or exceed the minimum product set forth in the FPPS. (Plan/Do)

231.2 Describe all the quality assurance methods used to verify conformance to all requirements. This shall include the monitoring and measurements taken during the process to verify conformance with each requirement. All measurement results shall be recorded and made available to AMS. (Check)

- 231.3 Identify all corrective actions to be taken if deviations from contractual and specification requirements occur during production, and all preventative actions to be taken to preclude a reoccurrence. (Act)
- 231.4 The technical proposal shall follow the format as shown in **Exhibit C**. Technical proposals should be brief and concise.
- 231.5 The technical proposal shall be preceded by the following, as required by the template:
- 231.5.1 Table of Contents listing the major areas as they appear in the technical proposal; and
- 231.5.2 List of attachments and forms provided with the technical proposal with the applicable document name and reference number.
- 232 SSD shall review each technical proposal to determine if it is adequate and shall notify the [contractor](#) of the status of its technical proposal and eligibility to bid.

233 Animal Welfare Requirements

- 233.1 All eligible [contractors](#) shall meet the animal handling and welfare requirements set forth in the FPPS for Animal Handling and Welfare, effective [April 2025](#) (**Exhibit B**).

300 Instructions for Submission of Technical Proposal

- 310 The following procedures establish the acceptable minimum requirements for the format and content of the technical proposal:
- 310.1 The Government has provided a technical proposal format to be used in preparing the technical proposal (see **Exhibit C**). The [contractor](#) shall submit the technical proposal as an email file attachment to AMS (TechnicalApprovals@usda.gov and Kym.Allen@usda.gov). The technical proposal shall be saved in a non-portable document file format (not PDF, e.g., Microsoft Word). The technical proposal shall be submitted in its entirety. If the file size of the technical proposal is too large to send in a single email, it may be divided and sent in multiple emails (i.e., Part 1, Part 2, Part 3, etc.). The collection of attachments and appendices may be submitted as a separate document as well.
- 310.2 While it is not the desire of the Government to penalize a [contractor](#) for non-compliance with formatting instructions, technical evaluators may have difficulty evaluating the technical proposal to the fullest extent possible if the technical proposal is not presented in the proper format. Technical evaluators shall not be required to search other subsections or sections of the [contractor's](#) technical proposal for information requested in the evaluation.
- 310.3 The technical proposal shall be submitted by an authorized agent of the company.

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320 Technical Proposal Revisions

321 Changes to a **contractor's** technical proposal may be submitted at any time or at the request of the SSD. All technical proposal revisions shall meet the following criteria:

321.1 Any changes to a technical proposal made by the **contractor** after its initial submittal shall be accomplished by submitting an entire technical proposal. A cover letter shall be submitted with the changes identified and an explanation of the need for the changes. The **contractor** shall include the revision date and the appropriate page number(s).

321.2 Changes from the original technical proposal shall be **highlighted** and deletions in ~~strikeouts~~.

400 AMS Contract Compliance

410 The contractor may request to use either AMS's Quality Assessment Division (QAD) Grading-based Monitoring and Certification service or QAD Audit-based Verification service, for assessing contract compliance of the finished product. AMS will seek to honor the request but reserves the right to make a final determination. Once an option is implemented, the contractor shall remain under that service until completion of the contract, at which time it may request a change in oversight option for any subsequent contract.

420 The cost of all audit, grading and certification services performed by the AMS agents shall be borne by the contractor. This includes, but is not limited to, audits, examinations, supervision, official documentation, and related services.

430 Questions concerning charges and the availability of AMS agents can be directed to a USDA/AMS, LP Program's QAD field office or to:

USDA, AMS, LP, QAD Business Operations Branch
1200 Cherry Brook Drive, Suite 100
Little Rock, AR 72211
Phone: 501-312-2962
Email: QAD.BusinessOps@usda.gov

440 Option A: QAD Grading-Based Monitoring and Certification

440.1 Monitoring of production and processing and product certification shall be conducted through the direct continuous supervision of a QAD Grader in accordance with the requirements listed in the FPPS and AMS/LP/QAD Policies and Procedures for certifying USDA commodity foods. A technical proposal is not required to be submitted when the contractor is operating under the QAD Grading-based Monitoring and Certification service option.

440.2 Pre-Production Onsite Plant Survey

440.2.1 QAD shall contact the contractor to set-up a pre-production plant survey and discuss production and certification requirements.

440.3 Post-Award Monitoring and Certification

440.3.1 The QAD Grader shall be present at all times during production and processing of the commodity food.

440.3.2 The QAD Grader may select samples for laboratory analyses or inspect the commodity at any point in transit and after delivery to point of destination.

440.3.3 The contractor shall perform checkloading examinations as described in the FPPS at the time of shipment and issue an acceptance document to accompany each shipment.

440.3.4 The QAD Grader shall be responsible for certification of compliance with the requirements of the FPPS for raw material, packaging and packing, metal detection, labeling and marking and net weight.

450 Option B: Audit-Based Verification

450.1 Verification of production and processing shall be conducted through routine audits performed by QAD according to the contractor's approved technical proposal (see section 200 and 300 Technical Proposal Requirements) and the applicable FPPS.

450.2 Interested contractors may submit a technical proposal at any time during the purchase program. Contractors should allow 10 working days, from USDA's receipt of the technical proposal for notification of evaluation results. A contractor is deemed eligible upon notification of approval of the technical proposal by the SSD.

450.3 Once a contractor is notified by the SSD that the technical proposal meets the applicable criteria, QAD shall contact the contractor to set up a pre-award onsite capability assessment [audit of the facility's processes, food defense plan, and quality control program used to produce the product\(s\) to determine the contractors ability to meet contractual requirements.](#)

500 Capability Assessments

510 Pre-Award Onsite Capability Assessment Audit

510.1 QAD shall conduct an onsite capability assessment that shall consist of reviewing:

510.1.1 Food Defense Requirements – Refer to Section [520](#) of this Supplement;

- 510.1.2 Production of the commodity that complies with the applicable FPPS and approved technical proposal;
- 510.1.3 Records related to purchasing, receiving, production, quality control, inventory, and shipping records;
- 510.1.4 Harvesting and Animal Humane Handling Requirements – Refer to FPPS for Animal Handling and Welfare; [effective April 2025 \(Exhibit B\)](#); and
- 510.1.5 Interviews with management and production personnel.
- 510.2 Upon completion and if necessary (due to time constraints), QAD may provide the SSD either with a verbal or email notification of the audit findings. SSD shall notify the vendor of their status based on the audit findings as well as QAD and the Commodity Procurement Program (CP). The official final audit report shall be sent to the contractor once released from QAD.
- 510.3 If the audit findings demonstrate that the process or food defense plan is inadequate, the applicant shall be notified by the SSD that they are ineligible to bid. The [contractor](#) shall have an opportunity to correct identified deficiencies, modify the process, food defense plan, and/or technical proposal, and resubmit for further consideration.
- 510.4 Eligibility shall depend on whether the modifications demonstrate that:
 - 510.4.1 The process is capable of delivering ~~fresh-boneless~~ beef products in compliance with the FPPS;
 - 510.4.2 The [contractor](#) is in compliance with the food defense plan;
 - 510.4.3 A successful QAD corrective action audit is conducted; and
 - 510.4.4 The contractor complies with other applicable contractual requirements.
- 510.5 After bid opening, CP shall contact QAD and SSD to determine that vendors have met all requirements to deem the bids responsive or non-responsive.
- 510.6 For bids that are determined to be non-responsive bids, CP shall notify the contractor(s) directly.

520 Food Defense Assessment - An AMS agent shall conduct a food defense audit that shall include, but is not limited to, a thorough evaluation of the contractor's food defense plan. Documentation shall support the contractor's food defense plan. If the report demonstrates that the food defense plan is inadequate, the contractor shall be notified by the SSD that they are ineligible to bid. The contractor shall have an opportunity to correct identified deficiencies, modify their food defense plan and re-submit a brief description for further consideration. Eligibility shall depend on whether the modifications demonstrate compliance with the food defense plan.

530 Post-Award Assessment Audit

530.1 Vendors who receive contracts shall have their required documentation readily available for review upon request by SSD, QAD, or other AMS agents. Records may be maintained in hard copy or electronic media. However, records maintained as electronic media shall be made available in printed form immediately upon request.

530.2 QAD shall conduct an onsite audit of the contractor's and subcontractor's facility(s) and processes when production commences for the first contract awarded. Additional audits, and their frequency, shall be conducted as determined by the SSD, but not less than once per month for contractors or subcontractors with continuous or multiple contracts, or once per contract for intermittent contractors. At the discretion of the SSD, more frequent audits may be conducted when audit deficiencies are detected.

530.3 For new contractors, QAD shall conduct monthly harvesting and humane handling audits based on the requirements stated in the attached FPPS and the company's approved technical proposal. Documentation shall support the contractor's adherence to meeting the harvesting and humane handling requirements as set forth in the FPPS. If four successfully conducted audits are sequentially completed within a one-year period while in standard auditing phase, the facility may move to a Semi-Annual audit basis or as stated in section 340 of the FPPS for Animal Handling and Welfare.

540 Post-Award Actions

540.1 Any deviation from contractual requirements shall be immediately reported by the contractor to the Contracting Officer and SSD. The Contracting Officer or SSD shall notify the contractor regarding eligibility to continue to participate as a contractor.

540.2 Contractor shall assure that the delivered product complies with the provisions of the FPPS, the applicable assessment by USDA, and the contractor's technical proposal approved by the SSD.

- 540.3 In the instance that any non-conformance is cited by the QAD auditor, or when a complaint is received by commodity recipient agencies, the contractor shall submit a cause-and-effect analysis and corrective actions to address the non-conformance or complaint.

600 Past Performance

610 Contractor Monitoring Program Requirements

- 611 Beef Special Trim contractors' performance as a supplier on contracts awarded by the Department of Agriculture (USDA) shall be evaluated monthly on a 30-day (1 month) basis or cycle.
- 612 The evaluation shall consist of all non-conformances (NC) that were identified by the QAD auditor. The NC's shall be categorized as critical, major, or minor based on their impact on the quality, safety, or value of the involved product.
- 613 The accumulation of at least two critical NC's, one critical/two major NC's, three major NC's, or a total five NC's in any combination, (i.e., critical, major, or minor) within the monthly 30-day (1-month review) shall result in the contractor being deemed ineligible by the SSD to supply beef products to AMS to fill USDA Commodity contracts.
- 613.1 To regain eligibility status, the contractor shall submit appropriate corrective and preventative measures to SSD for evaluation and the measures shall be verified by QAD as effective. The SSD shall notify the contractor when eligibility to supply beef products has been reinstated.
- 614 The criteria for the three categories of non-conformances are as follows:
- 614.1 Critical
- 614.1.1 Production non-conformances--a complete breakdown of the production process has occurred. It is apparent that the company cannot produce product that complies with contract requirements.
- 614.2 Major
- 614.2.1 Production non-conformances--major deviation from the production process has occurred that significantly impacts the quality or performance of the product. It is questionable if the company can consistently produce product that complies with contract requirements.

614.3 Minor

614.3.1 Production non-conformances--minor deviation from the production process has occurred that minimally impacts the quality or performance of the product. It is likely that the company can produce a product that complies with contract requirements.

700 Domestic Origin Certification Clause

710 The [contractor](#) agrees to include the below domestic origin certification clause in its entirety in all subcontracts for meat or meat products used in fulfilling any contracts awarded under this Supplement and [MIFB-D](#). The burden of proof of compliance is on the contractor. All raw materials shall be shipped in containers labeled as "Domestic Only Product" on the principal display panel and the bill of lading accompanying the shipment shall contain the statement "Domestic Only Product."

800 Certificate of Conformance (COC)

810 Include a copy of the contractor's Certificate of Conformance (**Exhibit D**) in addition to the referenced payment documents required in the [MIFB-D](#).

900 Contractor Checkloading

910 Under both the QAD Grading-based Monitoring and Certification option and the QAD Audit-based Verification service option, the contractor shall perform checkloading examinations as described in the FPPS at the time of shipment and issue contractor's certificate to accompany each shipment that includes all of the following information:

910.1 Purchase Order Number;

910.2 Sales Order and Sales Order Item Number;

910.3 Name of product;

910.4 Shipping Date;

910.5 Production lot number(s) and date each lot was produced;

910.6 Count of shipping containers and total projected net weight in each production lot [and delivery unit](#);

910.7 [Identity of car or transportation trailer numbers, letters, license, etc., including all serially numbered door seal\(s\), as applicable](#);

910.8 Contractor certification that product conforms with the FPPS;

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910.9 Count and projected net weight verified; and

910.10 Signature of company official responsible for checkloading.

1000 Exhibits



APPROVED

**Federal Purchase
Program Specification
(FPPS) for Beef Special
Trim**

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)
Livestock and Poultry (LP) Program
Standards and Specifications Division (SSD)
Room 2702-S, STOP [0249](#)
Phone: (202) 690-3148

Supersedes: FPPS ST [July 2022](#) – Changes from previous requirements in [blue](#)

Effective: [May 2025](#)

100 Item Description

- 110 Beef Special Trim shall be limited to any combination of the following muscle systems:
- 111 Peeled Knuckle – The peeled knuckle shall include the *rectus femoris*, and *vastus lateralis*, and may include the *vastus medialis*, and *vastus intermedius*.
- 112 Chuck Tender – The chuck tender shall consist of the *supraspinatus* muscle only.
- 113 Shoulder Clod Arm Meat – The shoulder clod arm meat shall include the *triceps brachii* muscles (long, medial and lateral head) only.

200 Checklist of Requirements

- 201 All items shall be produced in accordance with Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) regulations and the AMS Checklist of Requirements. The contractor's technical proposal, submitted to the Standards and Specifications Division (SSD), shall adhere to the following checklist requirements.

210 Materials

211 Meat Component

- 211.1 The contractor's technical proposal shall describe the necessary processing steps (including pictures) to comply with the items below.

- 211.1.1 Beef Round, Knuckle, Peeled or Beef Round, Knuckle, Full, Peeled - This item consists of the full knuckle or posterior portion of the full knuckle (*rectus femoris*, *vastus lateralis*, and may include *vastus medialis*, *vastus intermedius*). The knuckle shall (1) have the *tensor faciae latae* removed (peeled); (2) be butterflied to expose and remove the heavy connective tissue within the *rectus femoris* muscle and between the *rectus femoris* and *vastus lateralis*; (3) have the tendinous ends removed; and (4) have the *sartorius* removed.
- 211.1.2 Beef Chuck Tender - This item consists of the *supraspinatus* muscle, which lies dorsal to the medial ridge of the blade bone. The chuck tender shall be separated from other muscles through the natural seams. The large end (anterior end) shall be butterflied to expose and remove the heavy connective tissue within the muscle.
- 211.1.3 Beef Chuck, Shoulder Clod Arm Meat - This item is derived from the beef shoulder clod and shall consist of the large muscle system of the thick end of the clod (*triceps brachii* – long, medial and lateral heads only). The shank end shall be butterflied to expose and remove heavy connective tissue associated with the elbow tendon.
- 211.2 Domestic Origin** – All meat shall originate from livestock that are born, raised, and harvested in the United States, its territories or possessions (U.S.) If the establishment receives and processes livestock from outside the U.S., a segregation plan shall be put in place to preclude non-conforming product from being introduced into Federal nutrition assistance programs.
- 211.3 Harvesting (Slaughtering)** – Cattle shall be harvested in facilities that comply with the following requirements:
- 211.3.1 Humane Handling** – Cattle shall be humanely handled in accordance with all applicable FSIS regulations and AMS requirements;
- 211.3.2 Pathogen Intervention Steps** – Include at least two pathogen intervention steps. One of the intervention steps shall be steam pasteurization, an organic acid rinse, or a 180°F hot water wash and shall be a critical control point (CCP) in the establishment's FSIS recognized slaughter process Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) plan; and
- 211.3.3 Spinal Cord Removal** – Remove all spinal cord material during the harvesting process.
- 211.4 Boneless Beef** – Only fresh-chilled boneless special trim that complies with 211.2 – 211.3.3 and the following requirements and has never been previously frozen shall be allowed:
- 211.4.1 Traceability** – Contractors shall provide sufficient product traceability and shall have records to verify the source of raw materials used in each production lot;

211.4.2 Handling – All boneless beef shall be maintained in excellent condition. The contractor's technical proposal shall include detailed production scheduling that addresses time and temperature controls necessary to maintain excellent condition of the boneless beef; and

211.4.3 Objectionable Materials – The following objectionable materials shall be excluded: Major lymph glands (*prefemoral*, *popliteal*, and *prescapular*), thymus gland, bone, cartilage, sciatic (*ischiatric*) nerve, heavy connective tissue (shoulder tendon, elbow tendon, silver skin, *sacrosciatic* ligament, opaque periosteum, tendinous ends of shanks, *patellar* ligament (stifle joint)).

211.5 Mechanically Separated – Beef that is mechanically separated from bone with automatic deboning systems or advanced meat (lean) recovery (AMR) systems is not allowed.

212 Non-Meat Components

212.1 Non-meat components such as spinal cord, organ tissue, and foreign material are not allowed.

213 Fat Limitations

213.1 Maximum average surface fat thickness – Peeled/Denuded, Surface Membrane Removed (90 percent lean exposed). Flake fat shall not exceed 1/8-inch in depth at any point.

214 Grade Requirement

214.1 No grade requirement.

215 State of Refrigeration

215.1 Fresh-Chilled or Frozen as specified in each Solicitation. When Fresh-Chilled is specified, product shall be maintained and delivered at a temperature not less than 28°F (-2.2°C) or higher than 40°F (4.4°C). When frozen is specified, product shall be frozen to an internal temperature of not higher than 0°F (-17.8°C) within 72 hours from the time of final fabrication of the lot.

220 Preparation for Delivery

220.1 The contractor's technical proposal shall assure that all packaging, packing, labeling, closure, marking, and palletization comply with the National Motor Freight Regulations and FSIS regulations and the requirements listed below.

221 Packaging

- 221.1 For Beef Special Trim to be delivered frozen, product shall be bulk packaged without use of plastic liner material. When Beef Special Trim is to be delivered fresh-chilled, product shall be placed into plastic lined combo bins and shall be covered so that the container arrives at the destination intact.

222 Packing

- 222.1 Frozen bulk packaged Beef Special Trim shall be packed into containers to a net weight of 60 pounds. Only one style and size of leak proof container shall be used for each item within any one delivery unit. Shipping containers shall be closed by strapping, taping or gluing. When strapping is used, the initial closure (usually the bottom of container) shall be secured by the gluing or taping method.
- 222.2 Fresh-chilled Beef Special Trim bulk packaged product shall be placed in plastic lined combo-bins to a weight of between 1850 to 2250 pounds.

223 Closure

- 223.1 Sixty (60) pound shipping containers shall be strapped, taped or glued. Combo-bins shall be sealed.

224 Labeling

- 224.1 Shipping container labels shall be illustrated in the contractor's technical proposal and contain the following information:
- 224.1.1 USDA shield at least 2 inches high and appearing on the top of the container or on the principal display panel;



- 224.1.2 Applicable purchase order number;
- 224.1.3 A traceability code that is traced back to establishment number, production lot, and date;

- 224.1.4 The appropriate product name and material number listed in the table below for each of the items;

<u>Item</u>	<u>Material Number</u>
Beef, Boneless, Special Trim, Frozen	100156
Beef, Boneless, Special Trim, Chilled	100171

- 224.1.5 The words "For Further Processing into Cooked Product" shall appear on the principal display panel;
- 224.1.6 A nutrition facts panel based on actual nutritional analysis of the product;
- 224.1.7 Ingredient declaration (including single ingredient products); and
- 224.1.8 The allergen statement shall be provided in the format which complies with the Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act (FALCPA) and the Food Allergy Safety, Treatment, Education, and Research (FASTER) Act which define milk, egg, fish, Crustacean shellfish, tree nuts, wheat, peanuts, soybeans, and sesame as well as any food ingredient that contains protein derived from one of these foods, with the exception of highly refined oils, as "major food allergens"; e.g. Contains: _____.

For additional information refer to the FSIS Compliance Guidance at:
<https://www.fsis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/import/Allergens-Ingredients.pdf>

230 Palletized Unit Loads

- 231 All product shall be stacked on new or well-maintained pallets and palletized with shrink wrap plastic, unless otherwise specified in the solicitation. Pallet loads shall be stacked in a manner that minimizes the overhang of the shipping containers over the edges of the pallets and exposes each shipping container's principal display panel to facilitate certification examinations.

240 Delivery Unit

- 241 The delivery unit shall be 42,000 pounds (18,900 kg.) net weight (700 frozen shipping containers or 20 fresh-chilled combo-bins).

250 Delivered Product

251 Size and Style of Container

- 251.1 Only one size and style of shipping container shall be used in any one delivery unit.

252 Temperature

- 252.1 Product temperature shall not exceed 0°F at the time of shipment and delivery for frozen delivery, 40°F at the time of shipment and delivery for fresh-chilled delivery.

253 Sealing

- 253.1 All products shall be delivered to AMS assigned destinations, including multi-stop deliveries, under seal(s) with tamper proof, tamper resistant, serially numbered seals as required under the current AMS Master Invitations for Bids – Domestic Commodity Procurement (MIFB-D).

260 Product Assurance**261 Warranty and Complaint Resolution**

- 261.1 Warranty – The contractor shall guarantee that the product complies with all contractual requirements required under the AMS MIFB-D and Supplement.
- 261.2 Complaint Resolution – The contractor's technical proposal shall provide steps taken to resolve complaints received on the product (i.e. point of contact, cause and effect analysis, corrective and preventative actions taken, and product replacement).

262 AMS Monitoring and Production Assessment

- 262.1 The contractor may request to use either AMS's QAD Grading-based Monitoring and Certification service or QAD Audit-based Verification service, for assessing contract compliance of the finished product.
- 262.2 If the contractor uses the QAD Grading-based Monitoring and Certification service, it shall be implemented in accordance with Section 400 of Supplement 213.
- 262.3 A technical proposal is not required to be submitted when the contractor is operating under the QAD Grading-based Monitoring and Certification service option. The contractor's technical proposal shall specify that the QAD Audit-based Verification service option will be used.

263 Non-Conforming Product

- 263.1 The contractor shall include a plan and supporting documentation to assure that non-conforming product is not delivered under USDA contracts. The plan shall address 1) control and segregation of non-conforming product, 2) removal of any USDA markings, and 3) disposition of non-conforming product, including vendor documentation of final disposition (e.g., diverted to commercial production, cooked or destroyed).

264 Contractor Checkloading

264.1 Under both the QAD Grading-based Monitoring and Certification option and the QAD Audit-based Verification service option, the contractor shall perform checkloading examinations at the time of shipment and issue a contractor's certificate to accompany each shipment that includes the following information:

264.1.1 Purchase Order Number and Purchase Order Line Item Number;

264.1.2 Sales Order Number and Sales Order Line Item Number;

264.1.3 Destination of shipment;

264.1.4 Name of Product and applicable Material Number;

264.1.5 Shipping Date;

264.1.6 Production lot number(s) and date each lot was produced along with shipping container and immediate container code(s) and the code used that provides traceability to establishment number, production lot and date;

264.1.7 Count of shipping containers and total projected net weight in each production lot [and delivery unit](#);

264.1.8 [Identity of car or transportation trailer numbers, letters, license, etc., including all serially numbered door seal\(s\), as applicable](#);

264.1.9 Contractor certification that product conforms with the applicable specification ([FPPS-BST-2025](#));

264.1.10 Count and projected net weight verified; and

264.1.11 Signature of company official responsible for checkloading.



APPROVED

Federal Purchase Program Specification (FPPS) for Animal Handling and Welfare

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100 General

101 This document is for use by the Department of Agriculture (USDA), AMS, LP Program to ensure that the animal handling and welfare requirements for Federal nutrition assistance programs reflect industry best practices.

110 Program Approach

111 All animal harvest facilities that supply raw materials from bovine, porcine and ovine species for the production of AMS destined finished products must develop and implement a written program that is consistent with a systematic approach to humane animal handling and welfare as outlined in 69 FR 54625. The program will ensure proper animal handling and welfare techniques are conducted from the time the transportation conveyance enters the facility's premises through the stunning and exsanguination of the animal.

120 Program Submission

121 The program will be submitted as a supporting document to the organization's approved technical proposal and must address the requirements outlined in **Sections 200 – 241** ([Sections 300 & 400 are not required to be listed in the contractor's technical proposal - these sections are provided for information only.](#))

200 Program Components

201 The contractor must ensure that any facility that harvests animals has a:

210 Management Commitment

211 Steering Committee (internal) which is ultimately accountable for animal handling and welfare initiatives within the organization.

- 212 Mission Statement on animal handling and welfare that is distributed to all employees and conspicuously displayed at the premises.

220 Training Program

- 221 Training program on Animal Handling and Welfare that:

- 221.1 Is provided to all employees interacting with animals;
- 221.2 Covers the [Meat Institute Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines & Audit Guide: A Systematic Approach to Animal Welfare](#);
- 221.3 Is facilitated by an employee that has earned and maintained a certification of animal handling and welfare training, such as that offered through the Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization (PAACO) or an equivalent;
- 221.4 Is conducted no less frequently than once a year for each designated employee; and,
- 221.5 Requires signed documentation from each employee and confirmation by signature of the designated, certified trainer upon successful completion of training.

230 Quality Management Plan

- 231 Written quality management plan (internal) which addresses all provisions of Chapter 4: Transportation Audit Guidelines, 7 Core Criteria and Chapter 5: Auditing Animal Handling and Stunning, 7 Core Criteria, of the [Meat Institute Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines & Audit Guide: A Systematic Approach to Animal Welfare](#), found at the following web site address:
- 231.1 https://www.meatinstitute.org/Animal_Welfare/Guidelines_and_Audits
- 232 This internal quality management plan must also provide for routine assessment and monitoring of humane handling through the use of a numerical scoring system conducted by a trained employee.
- 233 All animal harvest facilities that supply raw materials from bovine, porcine and ovine species for the production of AMS destined finished products must have a fully functioning back-up stunning device onsite wherever animal stunning is performed.

240 Regulatory Oversight

- 241 For all species, animals/carcasses that are inspected and passed by the Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) are eligible for AMS purchase programs.

Sections 300 – 400 are provided for contractors' information only.

300 Program Evaluation and Eligibility

301 The program will be audited (external) by AMS or a firm accredited by AMS. The accreditation of the firm will be conducted by the Quality Assessment Division (QAD) through the **USDA ISO Guide 17065 Program**.

302 Audit findings will be communicated to the establishment's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Inspector in Charge (IIC) or designee.

310 Audit Format

311 Audits will be conducted utilizing the following format:

312 Transportation Segment (*Chapter 4: Meat Institute Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines & Audit Guide: A Systematic Approach to Animal Welfare*).

312.1 Audited organizations must pass Core Criteria 1 and 6 with a minimum scoring of excellent, Core Criteria 2 through 5 with a minimum scoring of acceptable and Core Criteria 7 must be adhered to with full compliance (zero tolerance) each time an audit is performed.

313 Animal Handling and Stunning Segment (*Chapter 5: Meat Institute Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines & Audit Guide: A Systematic Approach to Animal Welfare*).

313.1 Audited organizations must adhere to Core Criteria 1, 2, 6 and 7 with full compliance (zero tolerance) and to Core Criteria 3, 4 and 5 with a minimum scoring of Acceptable each time an audit is performed.^{1/}

313.2 The auditor shall inform FSIS and organization officials in writing of all audit findings, including any observations of missed stuns and/or animals regaining sensibility following stunning, upon completion of the audit during the exit interview.

320 Initial Audit

321 Initial audit must be performed prior to award of contracts.

^{1/}Religious harvest (Kosher and Halal) shall be exempt from the AMS auditing of Core Criteria 6: Effective Stunning.

330 Audit Failure

- 331 If an audit is failed for any of the Core Criteria, the organization is not eligible to provide product until such a time that corrective and preventative actions are approved by SSD, implemented and proven effective.

340 Audit Frequency and Status

- 341 Standard - Until four (4) consecutive successfully passed audits are attained, an audit must be conducted within **three** (3) months of the previous audit.
- 342 Monthly - If at any time an audit identifies any of the Core Criteria not meeting the pass requirements while in the Standard phase, auditing will be required to be conducted on a monthly basis once corrective and preventative actions have been approved by SSD, implemented and proven effective. This schedule will be for a period of time until four (4) successive audits are found to meet the passing requirements noted in **Section 310 – Audit Format**; at which time audits shall be conducted on the Standard basis.
- 343 If four **(4)** successfully conducted audits are sequentially completed within a one-year period while in Standard auditing phase, the facility may move to a Semi-Annual audit basis.
- 344 Semi-Annual - Semi-annual audits may continue until such time that a failed audit is reported or a period of greater than six **(6)** months has elapsed without any audits being performed; at which time the audits must resume as described for Standard audits.
- 345 For-Cause – Any official enforcement actions issued by FSIS for missed stuns or for an animal regaining sensibility following stunning shall result in an immediate for-cause animal handling and welfare audit by AMS. Subsequent audit frequency will be determined by results of the AMS audit, as described above.

400 Standards and Specifications Division

- 401 SSD can declare an organization's Animal Handling and Welfare Program out of compliance at any time.
- 402 The organization shall immediately notify SSD when any animal handling and welfare official enforcement action is issued by FSIS.

Cover Page:

Company Name

Company Address

Contact Person, including title, phone number, including emergency contact information, e-mail address (shall be authorized to represent the company).

Technical proposal for: **Supplement 213 and FPPS – Beef, Special Trim (Fresh/Frozen)**

Table of Contents (all pages and attachments shall be number and identified – any attachments shall be identified and referenced in the Technical Proposal).

The technical proposal should document a quality control program that includes procedures, records, forms, pictures, etc., which demonstrates conformance with the following checklist of requirements:

- 100 Item Description
- 200 Checklist of Requirements
- 210 Materials
- 211 Meat Component
 - 211.2 Domestic Origin of Meat Component
 - 211.3 Harvest
 - 211.3.1 Humane Handling
 - 211.3.2 Pathogen Intervention Steps
 - 211.3.3 Spinal Cord Removal
 - 211.4 Boneless Beef
 - 211.4.1 Traceability

Approved by  DRD.
Date Issued: 02/01/08
Date Revised: 05/01/25

- 211.4.2 Handling
- 211.4.3 Objectionable Materials
- 211.5 Mechanically Separated
- 212 Non-Meat Components
- 213 Fat Limitations
- 214 Grade Requirement
- 215 State of Refrigeration
- 220 Preparation for Delivery
- 221 Packaging
- 222 Packing
- 223 Closure
- 224 Labeling
- 230 Palletized Unit Loads
- 240 Delivery Unit
- 250 Delivered Product
- 251 Size and Style of Container
- 252 Temperature
- 253 Sealing
- 260 Product Assurance
- 261 Warranty and Complaint Resolution

262 AMS Monitoring and Production Assessment

263 Non-Conforming Product

264 Contractor Checkloading

Attachments or Appendixes - Please attach all referenced documents with the applicable document name and reference number.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE LIVESTOCK
AND POULTRY PROGRAM**

**CERTIFICATE OF CONFORMANCE FOR
THE PROCUREMENT OF BEEF, SPECIAL TRIM
(FRESH/ FROZEN)**

**CERTIFICATE OF
CONFORMANCE**

I certify the following:

(1) On [delivery date(s)], [Contractor's name] furnished the (insert the appropriate commodity description) called for by Purchase Order Number _____ via [Carrier] under Sales Order Number/Item number(s): _____.

(2) The (insert the appropriate material name) is of the quality specified and conforms in all respects with the purchase order requirements, including [Contractor's name] Technical Proposal as approved by the AMS, LP Program, Standards and Specifications Division.

(3) Product identification, (i.e., production lot number(s)) is in the quantity shown on the attached acceptance document.

(4) Contractor assures all meat or meat products used in fulfilling this contract was produced in the United States as defined in the AMS [Master Invitations for Bids – Domestic Commodity Procurement](#).

Date: _____

Signature: _____
(Signed by an officer or representative authorized to sign offers)

Title: _____